

Appln. No. 09/856,319
Amd. dated December 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 25, 2003

REMARKS

The Office Action and the cited and applied references have been carefully studied. No claim is allowed. Claim 32 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting its allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 20-26, 32, 33, 38, 39, 42 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as lacking adequate written description and enablement for the full scope of the claimed subject matter. While applicants do not concede to this holding of lack of adequate written description and enablement, applicants have amended claim 32 and cancelled all other rejected claims for reasons of business strategy and without prejudice, thereby obviating the rejections under §112, first paragraph.

The presently claimed method of claim 32 uses an antibody that is raised against an antigen consisting of amino acid residues 1-231 of either SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 to bind to a protein that "comprises" the amino acid sequence to which the antibody was raised against. The examiner has indicated that the "described antibodies that bind to the sequences set forth as SEQ ID NO:2 and 4 meet the written description provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph".

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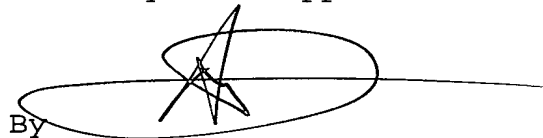
These rejections under §112, first paragraph, are believed to be obviated. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112, first paragraph, rejections are respectfully requested.

The outstanding prior art rejections are obviated by the amendment to claim 32 and the cancellation without prejudice of the remaining rejected claims. As amended, claim 32 does not encompass an antibody against any protein having serine protease activity; rather, it is directed to a method in which an antibody, raised specifically against the specific serine protease protein of residues 1-231 of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, is used.

In view of the above, the present claim 32 complies with 35 U.S.C. §112 and defines patentable subject matter warranting its allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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